
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that security deposits
2 can help ensure tenants will timely pay their rent and maintain
3 their rental property in an appropriate manner. The legislature
4 further finds that security deposits, as defined in the
5 residential landlord-tenant code under chapter 521, Hawaii
6 Revised Statutes, can only be used by a landlord for accidental
7 or intentional damages, cleaning the unit, or compensating for
8 damages caused by a tenant who wrongfully quits the unit.
9 However, the legislature also finds that landlords may rent
10 their property to tenants who then take on obligations, such as
11 sewer, water, and electricity expenses, that, if unpaid, could
12 affect the property.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the
14 residential landlord-tenant code to allow use of the security
15 deposit for specific unpaid charges when a tenant moves out,
16 including:



(1) Replacing keys, including key fobs, parking cards,
garage door openers, and mail box keys; and

(2) Paying for utility service provided by the landlord
under the rental agreement but not included in the
rent.

SECTION 2. Section 521-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
and to read as follows:

"Utility service" means service for electricity, water,
sewer, and natural gas."

SECTION 3. Section 521-44, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) As used in this section "security deposit" means
money deposited by or for the tenant with the landlord to be
held by the landlord to:

(1) Remedy tenant defaults for accidental or intentional
damages resulting from failure to comply with section
521-51, for failure to pay rent due, or for failure to
return all keys, including key fobs, parking cards,
garage door openers, and mail box keys, furnished by



1 the landlord at the termination of the rental
2 agreement;

3 (2) Clean the dwelling unit or have it cleaned at the
4 termination of the rental agreement so as to place the
5 condition of the dwelling unit in as fit a condition
6 as that which the tenant entered into possession of
7 the dwelling unit;

8 (3) Compensate for damages caused by a tenant who
9 wrongfully quits the dwelling unit; ~~and~~

10 (4) Compensate for damages under subsection (b) caused by
11 any pet animal allowed to reside in the premises
12 pursuant to the rental agreement ~~[-]~~; and

13 (5) Compensate the landlord for moneys owed by the tenant
14 under the rental agreement for utility service
15 provided by the landlord but not included in the
16 rent."

17 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on November 1, 2015.



Report Title:

Residential Landlord-Tenant Code; Security Deposit; Utility Service

Description:

Amends the Residential Landlord-Tenant Code to allow use of the security deposit to: replace keys, including key fobs, parking cards, garage door openers, and mail box keys; and pay for utility service provided by the landlord under the rental agreement but not included in the rent. (SB14 HD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

